GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7539
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY
SAHIB SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Telecom Policy alongwith its physical and financial components;

(b) the number of Telecom Circles in the country at present;

(c) whether the Cellular Telephone Service has been introduced;

(d) if so, the total number of Cellular Customers in each of the Telecom Circles in the country;

(e) whether Department of Telecommunications has any proposal to start its own Cellular Mobile Service in all the Telecom Circles; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) The salient features of New Telecom Policy, 1999, interalia, are :

- Provision of affordable and effective communications. - Creation of modern telecom infrastructure taking into account the convergence of IT, media, telecom and consumer electronics. - Convert telecom sector into competitive environment - Provision of universal service to all uncovered areas including the rural areas. - Provision of high level service capable of meeting the needs of country`s economy. - Encourage development of telecommunications facilities in remote, hilly and tribal areas of the country. - Achieve a tele-density of 7 by 2005 and 15 by 2010. - Increase rural tele-density from the current level of 0.4 to 4 by 2010. - Provide telecommunication facilities to all villages by 2002. - Internet access to be provided to all District Headquarters by 2000.
Reliable media to all exchanges by 2002.

NTP` 99 also envisages shifting from fixed license fee regime to revenue sharing for different services like Cellular Mobile, Basic & Radio Paging etc.

(b) The number of Telecom circles in the country - 20
Metro Telecom Districts - 4 (MTNL Delhi, MTNL, Mumbai, Chennai Telephones & Calcutta Telephones)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per available information, the total number of Cellular Customers in each of the Telecom circles in the country are as per Annexure-I.

(e)& (g) Department of Telecom Services (DTS) is initially introducing Cellular Services in a few selected cities of four states asa Pilot Project. The case for provisioning Cellular Mobile Service in other parts of the country is also under process.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 7539 FOR 15.5.2000 REGAR NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY Annexure- I

NUMBER OF CELLULAR MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE SUBSCRIBERS IN THE COUNTRY, LICENSED SERVICE WISE :

(As furnished by COAI)

S.No.	Licensed service area (Metro City/Telecom Circles)	No. of subscribers (March` 2000)
1.	Delhi	3,32,330
2.	Mumbai	3,19,309
3.	Calcutta	90,036
4.	Chennai	54,256
5.	Maharashtra	1,15,086
6.	Gujarat	1,46,175
7	Andhra Pradesh	1,05,469
8.	Karnataka	1,27,967
9.	Tamil Nadu	90,956
10.	Kerala	1,06,560
11.	Punjab	94,403
12.	Haryana	25,047
13.	UP-West	55,950
14.	UP-East	1,13,587
15.	Rajasthan	20,025
16.	Madhya Pradesh	40,544
17.	West Bengal	3,978
18.	Himachal Pradesh	5048
19.	Bihar	21,901
20.	Orissa	9,139
21.	Assam	5,823
22.	North East	722

METROS	:	7,95,931
CIRCLES	:	10,88,380
All India Total	:	18,84,311